IMPRESSIONISM...
The *other* French Revolution
New advancements that contributed to Impressionism...
Impressionism

• attempt to avoid the realistic depiction of photographs and capture the emotional spontaneity
  – Primarily done through bright colors and broad, thick brushstrokes
    • Favored lighting over detail, looking for the unfinished look
  – Spontaneous creativity unbound by social conventions

• Started by a group of artists whose work was rejected by The Salon (*the annual government-sponsored art exhibition in Paris*)

• first Impressionist exhibit was in Paris in 1874
The Salon style of academic painting

- Painted like the Old Masters
- Primarily painted historical scenes or portraits
- Portrayed the wealthy aristocrats
- Were staged sittings

- William Adolphe Bouguereau, “The Rest” (1879)
Impressionism

• How the Impressionists differed?
  – Their work was not staged; spontaneous
  – Painted ordinary people, usually their friends and family
  – Not connected to patrons; painted for themselves
  – Painted nature scenes
  – Not as defined
  – Experimented with new colors and brushstrokes

• How were the Impressionists were viewed?
  – Work was disliked and offensive
  – Considered lazy as it looked like they didn’t finish their paintings
  – Too connected to nature, which was considered a boring and uninteresting subject
  – Not real painters as you could still see the brushstrokes
Vincent van Gogh, "Self Portrait" (1887)
William Adolphe Bouguereau, “The Rest” (1879)

Pierre Auguste Renoir, “The Apple Seller” (1890)
Impressionism

• In 1874 French art critic Louis Leroy coined the term “impressionist” in a satirical review of a private exhibition of paintings by a group called The Anonymous Society of Painters, Sculptors, Engravers, etc.
  – Leroy was prompted to use this term in part by a modest harbor scene, *Impression, Sunrise* (1873) by Monet
  – The term “impressionist” struck Leroy as an appropriate description of the loose, inexact manner of painting
Impressionism

• Group consisted of:
  • Edouard Manet (1832-1883) -- French
  • Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919) -- French
  • Claude Monet (1840-1926) -- French
  • Edgar Degas (1834-1917) -- French
  • Camille Pissarro (1830-1903) -- French
  • Berthe Morisot (1841-1895) -- French

– The group started to meet in 1866 in cafes throughout Paris
  • Paris at this time was art capital of the world
Edouard Manet (1832-1883)

- Manet firmly believed that only modern life, no matter how ordinary, was an acceptable subject for art.
- He also believed that modern life must be depicted directly and truthfully, without sentiment or idealization.
• Manet submitted *The Absinthe Drinker* to The Salon in 1858, which promptly rejected it because its subject matter and style was vulgar.

• Absinthe was a wildly popular drink with artists and authors in France at this time:
  – Dangerously addictive, producing hallucinations
    • the word comes from the Greek *apsinthion*, which means undrinkable
    • the essential ingredient is a medicinal herb called wormwood
  – Called the cocaine of the late 1800s
  – Became illegal in 1915 because it was thought to be wrecking French society
  – Also banned in America in 1912 because of health concerns
Portrait of Emile Zola
Claude Monet Painting on His Boat
Woman Reading
The Barricade

- Repression of the Parisian rebels of the Paris Commune, by France’s national guards in 1871
Basket of Fruit
Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1840-1926)

• “I haven’t any rules or methods.”
• Renoir preferred to paint people rather than landscapes, his favorite subjects were women and children
• intense observation of the outdoor world
• Country Footpath in the Summer
Woman with a Parasol and Small Child on a Sunlit Hillside
• Banks of the Seine at Champросay
• “The Apple Seller” (1890)
Dance at Bougival
Dance at Bougival

• embodies the Impressionist commitment to paining scenes of everyday modern life
• Showcases Renoir’s perennial good humor and love of life
• Renoir makes it so that the audience, like the man in the painting, focus solely on the woman
Claude Monet (1840-1926)
• *Impression, Sunrise*
• The White Water Lilies
Water-Lilies
Meadow with Poplars
Poppy Field
The Walk.
Lady with a Parasol
The Rouen Cathedral

- Monet painted more than 30 canvases of the façade of the Rouen Cathedral in Rouen, France
  - One of his many “time series”
  - Study in different light and seasons
  - The Impressionists were fascinated by the changing effects of light and color at different times of day and in different weather and seasons
Houses of Parliament “time series”
Grainstack “time series”
Waterloo Bridge “time series”
Edgar Degas (1834-1917)

- Like Manet, he was more attracted to city life
- Degas often painted fashionable upper-class entertainments
L'absinthe
• Ballet Rehearsal on the Set
The Dance Class

• 24 women – ballerinas and their mothers – wait while a dancer executes an *attitude* for her examination

• Jules Perrot, one of the best known dancers and ballet masters in Europe, conducts the class
The Little 14-Year-Old Dancer

- Bronze sculpture with a cotton skirt and a satin hair ribbon
- The model was a ballet student in the Paris Opera named Marie van Goethem
Camille Pissarro (1830-1903)

- Self-Portrait
Two Young Peasant Women

- These young laborers dominate the landscape setting.
- An avowed anarchist, Pissarro wanted to preserve the values of agrarian society that were being threatened by the rapid industrialization of France.
Haystacks, Morning
• Boulevard Montmartre
The Old Market Town at Rouen
Berthe Morisot (1841-1895)

- French painter
- sister-in-law of Manet (*married his brother*)
- In 1864, she exhibited for the first time in Paris Salon
  - in 1874, she joined the Impressionists in the first of their own exhibitions
    - included Cézanne, Degas, Monet, Pissarro, and Renoir
- One of the few female Impressionist painters
- Focused on domestic life
  - Refused to paint nudes
- Édouard Manet, “*Berthe Morisot with a Bouquet of Violets*”
“Hanging Laundry out to Dry”
“On the Balcony”
“Eugene Manet on the Isle of Wight”
“Summer Day”
“After Lunch”  
*sold for $10.9 million in 2013, the most expensive work ever sold by a female artist at auction*
Mary Cassat (1844-1926)

- An American painter who lived most of her adult life in France
  - Moved to Paris in 1866
  - Became friends with Degas and exhibited with the Impressionists
- created images of the social and private lives of women, with particular emphasis on the intimate bonds between mothers and children
Degas’
“Portrait of Miss Cassatt”
“Reine Lefebre and Margot before a Window”
“The Boating Party”
“Summertime”
Post-Impressionism

- movement in French painting that emphasized the artist’s personal response to a subject
- whereas impressionist painters concentrated on the depiction of a subject’s immediate appearance, post-impressionists focused on emotional or spiritual meanings of the subject
- use of strong, unnatural colors and exaggeration or slight distortion of forms
- began in 1886
Post-Impressionism

• Includes:
  – Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) -- Dutch
  – Paul Gauguin (1848-1903) -- French
  – Paul Cèzanne (1839-1906) – French
  – Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1864-1901) – French
  – Georges Seurat (1859-1891) -- French
Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890)

Self-Portrait
Vincent van Gogh

• was a salesman in an art gallery, a French tutor, a theological student, and an evangelist before becoming an artist

• wanted to experience poverty, so he gave away all of his possessions to the poor and lived in extreme poverty
  – lived with prostitutes, drank absinthe, lived in excess

• Had numerous stays in an asylum for madness (most people today that his condition was that of a manic depressive or even bipolar)

• didn’t start painting seriously until 1880 – taught himself to draw and paint

• met Paul Cezanne in Paris, who commented, “Sir, you paint like a madman.”
• Self-Portrait
• Café Terrace at Night
• Sunflowers
hoped to start a colony of “Impressionists of the South” in Arles in southern France, but only Gauguin was willing to join him in 1888 (lived together for 2 months there)
Vincent van Gogh at Arles

- December 23, 1888
  - after drinking at a café in Arles, van Gogh threw his glass of absinthe at Gauguin, then later attacked Gauguin with a razor blade in the street
  - the same night, he went to a brothel and gave a prostitute part of his ear, saying she should “guard this object carefully”
- Gauguin many times awoke to find van Gogh staring at him in bed
- when Gauguin wanted to leave Arles, van Gogh started waving the razor blade around wildly saying that he’d do damage to himself if he left
- Gauguin left and van Gogh refused to eat because he felt his food was poisoned (admitted to a mental hospital and diagnosed with epilepsy)
  - drank turpentine, ate paint, and drank incessantly
- Eventually spent a year in a mental hospital as a result
- shot himself in the chest on July 27, 1890, and died two days later of infection
- sold only 1 painting during his lifetime
Self-portrait With Bandage and Pipe
Paul Gauguin (1848-1903)

- refused to study painting, preferring instead to learn from other painters
- drew with Pissarro, van Gogh, and Cézanne who became close friends of his
• Van Gogh Painting Sunflowers
The Yellow Christ
Gauguin turned against “everything that is artificial and conventional” in Europe and sailed to Tahiti.

*Tahitian Woman with Children*
Women of Tahiti
Paul Cèzanne (1839-1906)

- Self-Portrait
The House of Dr. Gachet in Auvers
Card Players
Still Life
- Green Apples
Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec ("too-loo la-trek") - (1864-1901)

- stayed in the Montmartre section of Paris, the center of the cabaret entertainment and bohemian life that he loved
- Physically disfigured because of breaking both legs and them not healing correctly, he found comfort in brothels around prostitutes
1891 poster *La Goulue* for the Moulin Rouge by Lautrec
At the Moulin Rouge

- the Moulin Rouge opened in 1889
- Toulouse-Lautrec is in the background
- English singer May Milton is on the right
La Goulue Arriving at the Moulin Rouge with Two Women
Georges Seurat (1859-1891)

- Worked mainly with Pointillism (small dots used instead of brushstrokes)
A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte
Art Nouveau
Art Nouveau

• French for 'new art‘
• climaxed in the years 1892 to 1902
• an international style of art, architecture and design
  – Described as dynamic, undulating, and flowing
• forward-looking artists and designers seceded from the mainstream salon exhibitions to exhibit on their own work in more congenial surroundings
• Replaced by modernism and Art Deco (design movement)
Gustav Klimt (1862-1918)

- Austrian
- one of the most prominent members of the Vienna Art Nouveau (Vienna Secession) movement
- primary subject is the female body
The Kiss
Portrait of Baroness Elisabeth Bacchofenecht
Portrait of Friederike Maria
• **Adele Bloch-Bauer I**
• sold for $135 million in 2006
Auguste Rodin

- 1840-1917
- Frenchman who primarily did bronze sculptures
- Modeled the human body with realism and celebrated individual character and physicality
  - expressive interpretation of the human body
- "It is [Michelangelo] who has freed me from academic sculpture."
The Gates of Hell

• depicts a scene from "The Inferno", the first section of The Divine Comedy by Dante

• Some of the original sculptures were enlarged and became works of art of their own
  – Including The Thinker, which characterizes Dante
The Thinker
Bust of Victor Hugo
Monument to Balzac